



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/270,710	03/16/1999	LAWRENCE F. GLASER	0388-0020	2842

7590 09/09/2004

SIXBEY FRIEDMAN LEEDOM & FERGUSON
8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE
SUITE 800
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

KALINOWSKI, ALEXANDER G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/270,710

Applicant(s)

GLASER, LAWRENCE F.

Examiner

Alexander Kalinowski

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/26/2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination. Applicant filed an amendment on 5/26/2004 amending claims 1 and 20 and adding new claims 23 and 24. Upon careful consideration of Applicant's amendment and arguments, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-22 and establishes new grounds of rejection for new claims 23 and 24. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-24 is a final rejection of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 96/24213 A1, Goldschmitt et al. (hereinafter Goldschmitt) in view of Bezos et al., Pat. No. 6,029,141 (hereinafter Bezos).

As per claim 1, Goldschmitt discloses a method of transmitting an advertisement from a sending party to a receiving party (see abstract and Fig. 4) comprising the steps of:

initiating a communication from a data processing system of the sending party (see Fig. 1 and page 8, line 26 - page 9, line 2);

transmitting said communication with said at least one advertisement therein to the recipient (see abstract)

Art Unit: 3626

Goldschmitt does not explicitly disclose

embedding the advertisement within the communication.

associating the preselected advertisement with said communication within the user-managed data processing system wherein said at least one advertisement optionally includes a hyperlink.

However, Bezos discloses embedding the advertisement within the communication and associating the preselected advertisement with said communication within the user-managed data processing system (i.e. can disseminate catalogs ... e-mail newsletters ... that include the associate's reviews and/or recommendations on specific products sold by the merchant)(col. 1, lines 56-61 and col. 8, line 59 – col. 9, line 8) wherein said at least one advertisement optionally includes a hyperlink (Fig. 6, unit 600). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned limitations as disclosed by Bezos within Goldschmitt for the motivation of efficiently marketing and selling goods (col. 1, lines 50-55).

As per claim 2, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: offering to the sender an option of becoming an advertiser (i.e. offer to provide free email service) and enabling, if the offer is accepted, a procedure within said user managed data processing system by which said preselected advertisement is associated with the communication (see abstract).

Art Unit: 3626

As per claim 3, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the advertisement is associated with at least one of software or hardware operable with the user managed data processing system (i.e. email message or software)(see abstract).

As per claim 4, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the communication is at least one of e-mail, facsimile, voice-over-IP, voice-over-Internet, voice mail, video mail, video teleconferencing, and an animated presentation (i.e. email)(see abstract).

As per claim 5, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the advertisement is sent for a preselected time period (i.e. between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM)(page 6, lines 1-11).

As per claim 6, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the advertisement is sent up to a pre-selected number of times (i.e. certain number of times during the day)(page 6, lines 1-11).

As per claim 7, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said preselected advertisement is electronically obtained from a third party data processing system (i.e. advertiser storage data files unit 24)(see Fig. 1 and page 8, lines 14-15).

Art Unit: 3626

As per claim 8, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the user is compensated for accepting the offer to become an advertiser (i.e. user receives free email)(see abstract).

As per claim 9, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the advertisement is at least one of visual and aural (i.e. graphics)(page 9, lines 23-29).

As per claim 10, Goldschmitt does not explicitly disclose the method of claim 2, wherein the advertisement is incorporated in setup software for one of software and hardware on said user managed data processing system.

However, the Examiner takes official notice that it was well known to provide advertisements within setup software for software or hardware in the computer arts. The purpose was to alert the customer of other products owned by the manufacturer that might be of interest to the customer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the method of claim 2, wherein the advertisement is incorporated in setup software for one of software and hardware within the Goldschmitt system for the motivation stated above.

As per claim 11, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 2, wherein means for sending the communication comprises at least one of an e-mail client, a facsimile system, a voice-over-IP system, a voice-over-Internet system, a voice mail system, a video mail client, and a video conferencing system (i.e. email)(see abstract).

As per claim 12, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 2, further comprising offering to a recipient of the communication and advertisement an option of being an advertiser (see abstract).

As per claim 13, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 12, wherein said step of offering to a recipient of the communication and advertisement an option of being an advertiser includes fraud avoidance means for reducing or eliminating fraud associated with the transaction (see abstract).

As per claim 14, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 7, wherein said preselected advertisement is electronically obtained from a third party data processing system using the Internet (page 8, lines 5-8).

As per claim 15, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the advertisement is displayed to a recipient during a period of at least one of before, during and after the communication (page 8, lines 10-13 and page 9, lines 1-7).

As per claim 16, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the user managed data processing system is at least one of a computer and telephone (see Fig. 1 and col. 8, lines 1-13).

Art Unit: 3626

As per claim 17, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the advertisement is embedded in the communication by a third party (i.e. email messaging center 18)(page 8, lines 14-25).

As per claim 18, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said preselected advertisement is determined at least in part by the recipient's demographic (i.e. profile match information identifying certain demographic information)(page 8, lines 14-25).

As per claim 19, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 18 wherein said demographic is at least one of location, language, gender, age, income, and physical handicap (i.e. profile match information identifying certain demographic information)(page 8, lines 14-25).

As per claim 23, Goldschmitt discloses the method of claim 1. Goldschmitt does not explicitly disclose wherein the pre-selected advertisement is under the local control of the sending party.

However, Bezos discloses the pre-selected advertisement is under the local control of the sending party (i.e. unit 120)(see Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 59-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned limitation as disclosed in Bezos within Goldschmitt for the motivation stated above for claim 1.

As per claim 24, the claim is substantially similar in scope to claim 23 and is rejected on the same basis.

4. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldschmitt in view of Bezos and Uomini, Pat. No. 6,018,761.

As per claim 20, Goldschmitt discloses a method of transmitting an electronic communication including an advertisement from a user managed data processing system associated with a sending party to a data processing system associated with a receiving party (see abstract) comprising the steps of:

transmitting an electronic communication using the data processing system associated with the sending party to the data processing system associated with the recipient (see abstract).

Goldschmitt does not explicitly disclose

embedding the advertisement within the communication.

associating the preselected advertisement with said communication within the user-managed data processing system wherein said at least one advertisement optionally includes a hyperlink.

However, Bezos discloses embedding the advertisement within the communication and associating the preselected advertisement with said communication within the user-managed data processing system (i.e. can disseminate catalogs ... e-

Art Unit: 3626

mail newsletters ... that include the associate's reviews and/or recommendations on specific products sold by the merchant)(col. 1, lines 56-61 and col. 8, line 59 – col. 9, line 8) wherein said at least one advertisement optionally includes a hyperlink (Fig. 6, unit 600). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned limitations as disclosed by Bezos within Goldschmitt for the motivation of efficiently marketing and selling goods (col. 1, lines 50-55).

Goldschmitt and Bezos do not explicitly disclose

locating a data file containing signature information on the data processing system associated with the sending party, said signature information being appended to electronic communications originating from the user managed data processing system associated with the sending party;

modifying information stored within said signature file to include an advertisement; and

said electronic communication including said information stored within said signature file including said advertisement.

However, Uomini discloses an electronic messaging system that attaches information to the mail messages (see abstract and col. 1, lines 8-10). A signature block (i.e. context data) is used to transmit information to the recipient and is attached to the sender's message (see col. 5, lines 6-18). Furthermore, Uomini discloses the signature block may contain business information (i.e. advertisement)(col. 5, lines 10-12). The motivation for including an advertisement within the signature block was to attach

Art Unit: 3626

information to the mail message (col. 1, lines 8-10 and col. 3, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include locating a data file containing signature information on the data processing system associated with the sending party, said signature information being appended to electronic communications originating from the data processing system associated with the sending party, modifying information stored within said signature file to include an advertisement and said electronic communication including said information stored within said signature file including said advertisement as disclosed by Uomini within the Goldschmitt and Bezos system for the motivation stated above.

As per claim 21, Goldschmitt, Bezos, Uomini do not explicitly disclose the method of claim 20 wherein said signature file is associated with an e-mail client operating on said user managed data processing system associated with the sending party.

The Examiner takes official notice that it was well known in the computer arts to use signature files within user managed data processing systems. The motivation for embedding the advertisements with in a signature file at the third party data processing system allows the system to add advertisements to the portion of the email message that is always present thereby simplifying the efficiency and cost of the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the method of claim 20 wherein said signature file is associated with an e-

Art Unit: 3626

mail client operating on said data processing system associated with the sending party within the Goldschmitt system for the motivation stated above.

5. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldschmitt and Bezos as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Uomini.

As per claim 22, Goldschmitt and Bezos do not explicitly disclose the method of claim 1 where associating said preselected advertisement with said communication further comprises associating a personal testimonial by said sending party thereby lending credibility to said preselected advertisement.

However, Uomini discloses associating said preselected advertisement with said communication further comprises associating a personal testimonial by said sending party thereby lending credibility to said preselected advertisement (see Fig. 2b and 2c). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the method of claim 1 where associating said preselected advertisement with said communication further comprises associating a personal testimonial by said sending party thereby lending credibility to said preselected advertisement within the Goldschmitt and Bezos combination for the motivation of obtaining message context information for the recipient regardless of whether it is provided or not by the sender (col. 1, lines 8-10 and col. 2, lines 56-67).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 5/26/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the Bezos reference does not disclose embedding the advertisement within the communication and associating the preselected advertisement with said communication within the user-managed data processing system. The Examiner disagrees. As pointed out by Applicant, Bezos discloses a merchant enrolling as an associate and disseminates product catalogues through various means such as Push, e-mail newsletter, web documents. The catalogs contain the advertisement (i.e. the catalog advertises products) that is sent from the sending party to the receiving party (see Fig. 6 and Fig. 10). The associate's reviews, editorial descriptions, and recommendations all constitute a form of advertisement for the product. Furthermore, even the hyperlink displaying the product (i.e. Fig. 6, unit 600) is a form of advertisement that is under the local control of the associate (col. 11, lines 43-62). All these features are under local control of the sending party (see Fig. 1, unit 120 and col. 6, lines 59-67) since the documents are found in local storage on the associate's server. Furthermore, the associate can freely modify product descriptions and referral links (col. 9, lines 1-8). Therefore, Bezos discloses embedding the advertisement within the communication and associating the preselected advertisement with said communication within the user-managed data processing system and Applicant's arguments are nonpersuasive.

Art Unit: 3626

7. The Examiner notes that Applicant added the limitation of "wherein said at least one advertisement optionally includes a hyperlink" to independent claims 1 and 20. This limitation is a conditional limitation in that the hyperlink is not required by such a recitation and normally such a limitation would not be considered to be patentably distinct over the prior art. However, in view of Bezos disclosing the feature, the Examiner considered this limitation as if the language of the limitation required the at least one advertisement to include a hyperlink.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

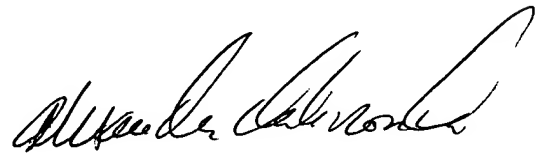
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Kalinowski, whose telephone number is (703)

Art Unit: 3626

305-2398. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. In addition, the examiner can be reached on alternate Fridays.

If any attempt to reached the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached on (703) 305-9588. The fax telephone number for this group is (703) 305-7687 (for official communications including After Final communications labeled "Box AF").

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th Floor, receptionist.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Kalinowski', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alexander Kalinowski

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 3626

9/6/04